

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A self-describing peripheral device for being integrated with a computer operating system, said device comprising:

at least one hardware component resident in said device; and

at least one description subsystem resident in said device and associated with said at least one hardware component;

said at least one description subsystem being adapted to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system; and

said at least one description subsystem comprising interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system, wherein said interface logic is adapted to determine if said device is known to said operating system, and if said device is not known to said operating system, provide a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable and wherein said interface logic is further adapted to assist said computer operating system in obtaining a copy of the device driver for installation in said device.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

non-volatile memory;

said interface logic being adapted to control said non-volatile memory.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate identification of said device.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a device driver;

said interface logic being adapted to facilitate the provision of information to a computer operating system relating to the version of said device driver.

6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Cancelled)**

8. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 7 1, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate the updating of a network location at which a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate the updating of device driver information stored on said device.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and to prompt usage of the newer version.

**11. (Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;  
said interface logic being adapted to prompt usage of said locally stored device driver if a remotely stored device driver is not accessible.

**12. (Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;  
said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver at predetermined time intervals so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version.

**13. (Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a printer.

**14. (Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a modem.

**15. (Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a graphics card.

16. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a sound card.

17. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a IDE disk controller.

18. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a SCSI disk controller.

19. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a network controller.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of integrating a self-describing peripheral device with a computer operating system, said device comprising:

providing at least one hardware component to be resident in said device;

providing at least one description subsystem to be resident in said device and associated with said at least one hardware component;

adapting said at least one description subsystem to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system, said at least one description subsystem comprising interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system; and

facilitating integration of said device with a computer operating system via said at least one description subsystem, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises determining if said device is known to said operating system, and if said device is not

known to said operating system, providing a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable and assisting said computer operating system in obtaining a copy of the device driver for installation in said device.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises facilitating identification of said device.

22. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:  
providing a device driver associated with said device;  
said facilitating of integration comprising facilitating the provision of information to a computer operating system relating to the version of said device driver.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises the updating of a network location at which a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

26. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises facilitating the updating of device driver information stored on said device.

27. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:  
storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and to prompt usage of the newer version.

**28. (Original)** The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising prompting usage of said locally stored device driver if a remotely stored device driver is not accessible.

**29. (Original)** The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver at predetermined time intervals so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version.

**30. (Original)** The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and querying a user to choose between versions.

31. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for:

providing at least one hardware component to be resident in said device;

providing at least one description subsystem to be resident in said device and associated with said at least one hardware component;

adapting said at least one description subsystem to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system, said at least one description subsystem comprising interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system; and

facilitating integration of said device with a computer operating system via said at least one description subsystem, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises determining if said device is known to said operating system, and if said device is not known to said operating system, providing a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable and wherein said interface logic is further adapted to assist said computer operating system in obtaining a copy of the device driver for installation in said device.

32. (Cancelled)